

OXFORD

NEW

HORIZONS

Sacred
SATB and organ

— CECILIA McDOWALL —
Vita Mundo

ecclesiastical choral music, and dedicated to his wife and two sons and all whom they hold most dear.

*First performed by the Choir of Merton College Chapel, Oxford,
conductor Benjamin Nicholas, on 17 November, 2013, in the College Chapel*

Vita Mundo

In hoc singulari signo vita redditur mundo

Texts taken from the image of a Saxon cross
at St Paul's, Jarrow, Northumbria
and Psalm 127

CECILIA McDOWALL

Expressive, always flowing $\text{♩} = 52-56$

The musical score consists of ten staves. The top five staves represent the vocal parts: Soprano (G clef), Alto (C clef), Tenor (C clef), Bass (F clef), and Organ (C clef). The bottom five staves represent the piano accompaniment. The vocal parts sing in unison, while the organ and piano provide harmonic support. The piano part includes dynamic markings like *mp*, *mf*, and *mf freely*, and performance instructions like "freely, quasi plainchant" and "(Man.)". The vocal parts sing the text "In hoc singulari signo vita redditur mundo". The piano part also sings the text "sig - no", "vi - ta mun -", "vi - ta red - di - tur", and "vi - ta red - di - tur mun -". The score is set in common time, with various key changes indicated by key signatures and sharps.

A tempo

mp

10

do.

Un-less the Lord,

mun - do.

Un-less the Lord,

mun - do.

Un-less the Lord,

-do, mun - do.

Un-less the Lord,

(Man.)

Ped. 8'

14

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin vain.

un-less the Lord builds the house, its build-ers la-bourin ³vain.

mp

p

poco

mp

p

poco

mp

p

poco

18 *mp cresc.* > *p* 3
 — Unless the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, — the watch-men stand guard in vain.
 —
mp cresc. 3 3 > *p* * 3
 — Unless the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, — the watch-men stand guard in vain.
 —
mp cresc. > *p* 3
 8 — Unless the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, — the watch-men stand guard in vain.
 —
mp cresc. > *p* 3
 — Unless the Lord watch-es o-ver the ci-ty, — the watch-men stand guard in vain.

Musical score for strings and piano, page 10, measures 11-12. The score consists of two systems. The top system shows the piano part in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with grace notes and dynamic markings *mp cresc.*, *d*, *(p)*, and *p legato*. The bottom system shows the string parts in bass clef with a 2/4 time signature, featuring sustained notes and a dynamic marking *Man.*

22 *mf* *mf*

In vain you rise_ ear-ly and stay up late,

mf *mf*

In vain you rise_ ear-ly and stay up late,

mf *mf*

In vain you rise_ ear-ly and_ stay up late,

mf

In vain, in vain,

*for rehearsal only

Ped.

26

f

mp dolce

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f

mp dolce

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f

mp dolce

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f

mp dolce

toil-ing for food to eat, for he grants sleep to

f

mp dolce

toil-ing for food to eat, to eat, for he grants sleep to

f

mp dolce

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta

poco

mp

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta red - di

poco

mp

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta red -

poco

mp

those he loves, those he loves. Vi - ta red - di

mf

mp

Bright (Ristesso tempo)

34

poco *mf*

mun - do, mun - do.

- tur mun - do.

- di-tur mun - do.

- tur mun - do, mun - do.

Sons are a he - ri-tage from the

Man.

38

Lord, child-ren a re - ward from him.

Like ar - rows, like ar - rows,

Lord, child-ren a re - ward.

Like ar - rows, ar - rows in the

Lord, child-ren a re - ward.

Are sons

Lord, re - ward.

Are sons

Ped. (16')

42

like ar - rows, ar - - - - rows.

hands of a war - ri - or.

born, born, born in one's youth.

46

A tempo

mf

Bless-ed is the man whose qui - ver is full,

Bless-ed is the man whose qui - ver is full,

Bless-ed is the man whose qui - ver is full,

Bless-ed is the man whose qui - ver is full,

mp

Ped. 8'

50

qui - ver is full of them. *poco* They will not be put to shame
 qui - ver is full of them. *poco* They will not be put to shame
 qui - ver is full of them. *poco* They will not be put to shame
 qui - ver is full of them. *poco* They will not be put to shame

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

p *mf* *f* *mf* Man.

54

when they con-tend with their e - ne-mies in the gate, in the gate.
 when they con - tend with their e - ne - mies in the gate.
 when they con-tend they con - tend with their e - ne - mies.

f

f

f

they con - tend, they con - tend with their e - ne - mies in the

mf

f

Ped. (16')

58 *mp dolce*

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves..

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves..

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves..

For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves..

gate. For he grants sleep to those he loves, he loves..

mp dolce

(Ped.)

62 *mf* *mf* *rit.* *f*

Vi - ta mun - do.

mf *mf* *f*

Vi - ta red - di - tur mun - do.

mf *mf* *f*

Vi - ta red - di - tur mun - do.

mf *mf* *f*

Vi - ta red - di - tur mun - do.

mf

Man.

Ped. (16th)

32'

NEW

HORIZONS

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Cecilia McDowall

Photo: Christie Dickason



Born in 1951 and educated at Edinburgh and London Universities, Cecilia McDowall has been described by the International Record Review as having a 'communicative gift that is very rare in modern music'. An award-winning composer, McDowall is often inspired by extra-musical influences, and her choral writing combines rhythmic vitality with expressive lyricism. Her music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading choirs, among them Phoenix Chorale and the Choir of New College, Oxford, and is regularly programmed at prestigious festivals in Britain and abroad.

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